



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 6th September 2020

*Sunday services at 11 am and 7 pm are conducted by our minister
Rev Angus MacRae. Tel: (01349) 862183. Mobile: 07 506 006 459.*

Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com

This is a guide to our Sunday Morning Service, held live in-person at the Free North Church and also broadcast online at 11 am on the Free North YouTube channel and available afterwards for catch-up.

Tonight, a short service including praise and our new Song of the Month (He Will Hold Me Fast) will stream on YouTube at 7 pm, followed by a Zoom fellowship at 7.30 pm.

(Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCjxeX18IKP4grKdqWEt2dgw).

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 118:1,22-24 NLT)

Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Minister: The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful to see.

All: This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.

PSALM 139a (Sing Psalms Version)

O LORD, you have examined me,
you know me through and through.
My sitting, rising—all my thoughts
afar are known to you.

My going out and lying down
are plain before your view.
Before I speak a word, O LORD,
it is well known to you.

You hem me in—behind, before;
you lay on me your hand.
Such knowledge is too wonderful,
too high to understand.

Where can I from your Spirit flee
or from your presence go?
If to the heavens, you are there,
or in the depths below.

If I should take the wings of dawn
and dwell beyond the sea,
There also you would be my guide,
your right hand holding me.

*Tune: St. Andrew (CM). Words © 2003 Free Church of
Scotland. Recorded at Lochbroom Free Church, Ullapool.*

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches in **NORTH HARRIS, & DUNOON & STRACHUR** (Argyll).

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

Warm congratulations to **Joan MacLeod and Stewart Vant** who have become engaged. They are busy planning their wedding for this October and we all share in their joy and excitement. Joan's parents have also recently celebrated their 70th birthdays. Warm congratulations to Jane and Iain.

Thanks: **Angus, Norman and Vina Campbell** wish to thank all the friends in the congregation who expressed their sympathy on the death of **Cathie Ann McKenzie**. Your messages, phone calls, texts and cards are much appreciated. Thank you.

Murina Anderson will be issuing a **Free North News Letter** next weekend. If you have articles, photos and news items please send these to Murina by Thursday 10th September (m.anderson100@btinternet.com).

PAUL DAVID TRIPP MEDITATION: A LIGHT IN HIS HANDS

BIBLE READING: TITUS 1:10-16 (read by Shona MacLeod)

¹⁰For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹²One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." ¹³This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith ¹⁴and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. ¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

Held secure by faith in the Saviour's hands,
Shielded by His grace, on Christ we stand.

He is Lord of all, we should never doubt.
Through uncertain times, He is solid ground.

You have carried us through the raging sea,
In the fire and flood, we stand redeemed.
Through the storms of life, you will not let go.
This our confidence that our anchor holds.

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SERMON – TITUS 1:10-16 – HOW TO FIX A BROKEN CHURCH

Paul wrote to Titus, a younger Church leader in the island of Crete, in the mid-60s of the first century AD. His letter speaks powerfully to our generation and to every generation, as it offers God's message to fix and straighten out a broken church. There are two ideas to unpack today. **1). THE GOSPEL ALONE WILL FIX SHEPHERDING.** Pastors and elders, according to Calvin, need two voices for the flock they shepherd. An encouraging voice to gather the sheep, and a strong and correcting voice, to ward away dangers from the flock. Calvin got that idea straight from this passage. Godly leaders build up the flock and guard the flock using these two voices. To do so church leaders need to be godly and self-controlled. Not liars - like the reputation of the people of Crete! Gospel-shepherds must avoid over-pastoring (control) or under-pastoring (neglect). Only the gospel brings health to pastoral care. **2). THE GOSPEL ALONE FIXES BROKEN CHURCHES.** Paul challenges Titus to deal with rebellious false-teachers who threaten the church. Some were legalists trying to impose circumcision and other aspects of Jewish heritage, along with myths and rituals of human origin. If our church is threatened by such influences, we need to assess "rules" and taboos with three tests suggested by John Stott. (1) What is the origin of the rule? From God or from men? (2) What is its essence Does the "rule" challenge us on the inside or only on the outside? (3) What is its moral result? It is God's gospel, not legalistic human rules, that will bring us more and more of God's life. Legalism leads to us

honouring God with our lips but not with our hearts. But the gospel frees us to place our heart under the control of Jesus Christ, not some idol or good thing we allow to become an idol to us. When legalists troubled the church, Paul's solution was to multiply the number of pastors and elders who teach and live by the true gospel. In that well-pastored context the word of God will shape us and the gospel will spread.

HYMN: YOUR GRACE THAT LEADS THIS SINNER HOME (by CityAlight)

Your grace that leads this sinner home
From death to life forever;
And sings the song of righteousness
By blood and not by merit.

Your grace that reaches far and wide
To every tribe and nation;
Has called my heart to enter in
The joy of Your salvation.

By grace I am redeemed,
By grace I am restored:
And now I freely walk,
Into the arms of Christ my Lord.

Your grace that I cannot explain,
Not by my earthly wisdom:
The Prince of life, without a stain,
Was traded for this sinner.

By grace I am redeemed,
By grace I am restored:

And now I freely walk,
Into the arms of Christ my Lord.

Let praise rise up and overflow,
My song resound forever;
For grace will see me welcomed home,
To walk beside my Saviour.

By grace I am redeemed,
By grace I am restored:
And now I freely walk,
Into the arms of Christ my Lord.

By grace I am redeemed,
By grace I am restored:
And now I freely walk,
Into the arms of Christ my Lord.

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BENEDICTION

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT THE FREE NORTH: We are delighted to offer in-person worship in our church building on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Initially this is limited to 50 persons. Sunday evenings continue to be an online-only service. We will review youth work and consider resuming creche and Sunday School after the October break, but families with children are welcome to come to church. Try to arrive in good time to be shown to your seat by the welcome team. If you need water bring your own water bottle and any books, bibles, or children's toys and materials that you require. The Scottish Government requires the use of facemasks indoors. Worshippers may be seated with other household members or with someone in their social "bubble". For the first few weeks we plan to divide the congregation **by surname** into **two groups** so that as many as possible may attend. The pattern is Sunday 6th surnames **MaL to Z**; Sunday 13th - surnames **A to MacK**. This guidance is flexible and is intended to avoid a "booking" system. **Visitors and folk who cannot attend when it is their "turn"** (perhaps because of travel, illness or shift work) **should feel free to attend whenever they can**. We do not wish to exclude anyone who wishes to attend or to put pressure on anyone to return, for example if they have health

concerns. Online worship services will continue to be provided for those worshipping at home or in a cluster of homes. Please do not attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.

Sunday: For the next few weeks **BOTH** Morning and Evening Services will premiere on **YouTube** at 11 am and 7 pm. There will then be a Zoom-based informal fellowship after the evening service from 7.30 pm. Our Sunday morning teaching series is on **TITUS: STRAIGHTENING OUT GOD'S CHURCH**. Our evening theme is: **The Next Revival**. Tonight's message is on **Joel 2 – Where is Their God?** The usual Zoom log-on details can be obtained from Martin (office@freenorthchurch.org).

Wednesday: Join us in the church or online on Zoom at 7.30 pm for a time of prayer.

The latest issue of **The Record** is available for free online at: https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the_record-september-20-web

ETS Saturday Course: The new session of the Saturday Part-time Courses at ETS begins on Saturday 12th September 2020. These will be online only until face-to-face teaching is permitted. Full course information and an online registration form can be found on the ETS website: ets.ac.uk

Guy's Group: The next Guys groups are on Monday 21st September. It will be helpful to read pages 59-74 of Joe Barnard's book *The Way Forward*.

The **Big Free Rally** is online this year on Saturday 26th September. As ever it will be a brilliant day full of friends, laughter, singing, Bible talks, games and activities. You don't need to have been to FCYC camps to take part – it's open to everyone in P5 upwards!

Our mission partner **Philip Amos** (of CWI in North London) will join us for our evening fellowship on 20th September at 7 pm. The Covid pandemic has made personal evangelism difficult but Philip has been making contact with new enquirers through text messaging and by distributing leaflets. While he receives some opposition and abuse, he is also helping others to know the Messiah.

UCCF Staff Worker **Emma de Paula's** September Newsletter is now available. Please pray for Emma, and for adequate support to cover her costs.

Anne Muirden is taking part in **The Kiltwalk Challenge** on Saturday to raise funds for The Leprosy Mission's hospital in Purulia in India. If you would like to accompany her along the canal bank to Dochgarroch and back on Saturday morning and sponsor her, whether you take part or not, please contact her at ac.muirden@btinternet.com or phone 01463 239412 for more details.

Free Church Books recommends "*Wherever You Go, I Want You To Know*", a new book ideal for children. See: <https://thefree.church/books-whenever>.

If you need help of any sort, we would love to hear from you. Contact the minister (07 506 006 459; angusmacrae1967@gmail.com), any elder or deacon, or the church office (office@freenorthchurch.org).

Giving to support the Free North: Donate through our website (PayPal logo). To set up a standing order, post a cheque or to arrange for Gift Aid, please contact our congregational treasurer, Mrs Barbara Macphail, 31 Towerhill Avenue, Inverness, IV2 5FX. Tel: 01463 794622. Email: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org.

We welcome development fund donations to support Carrie Marlow, our new **Women's Pastoral Worker**. Please pray for Carrie as she prepares to relocate to Inverness.